

## House Resolution 1501

By: Representatives Price of the 48<sup>th</sup>, Barr of the 103<sup>rd</sup>, Cantrell of the 22<sup>nd</sup>, Battles of the 15<sup>th</sup>, Gilligan of the 24<sup>th</sup>, and others

## A RESOLUTION

- 1 Honoring the life and memory of Reverend Billy Graham; and for other purposes.
- 2 WHEREAS, Reverend Billy Graham was a trusted confidante and spiritual advisor to many  
3 United States presidents through national and personal crises; and
- 4 WHEREAS, he was born on November 7, 1918, in Charlotte, North Carolina, the eldest of  
5 four children, and was raised on a dairy farm in nearby Montreat; and
- 6 WHEREAS, Reverend Graham studied at the Florida Bible Institute, now known as Trinity  
7 College, near Tampa, Florida, and at Wheaton College in Illinois and was ordained as a  
8 Southern Baptist minister in 1939; and
- 9 WHEREAS, he married Ruth McCue Bell, daughter of a missionary doctor, in 1943; they  
10 had attained 64 years of marriage at the time of her death in 2007, and together they had five  
11 children, Virginia "Gigi" Graham Tchividjian, Anne Graham Lotz, Ruth Graham, Franklin  
12 Graham, and Nelson "Ned" Graham, each of whom works in Christian ministry; and
- 13 WHEREAS, Reverend Graham founded the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association in 1950  
14 and led the organization for 50 years until his son, Reverend Franklin Graham, took it over  
15 in 2000; and
- 16 WHEREAS, over the course of more than 58 years, Reverend Graham led 417 revivals,  
17 crusades, and missions around the world, preaching to more than 210 million people in 185  
18 countries and territories, on six continents, and in the State of Georgia twice by 1950 alone;  
19 and
- 20 WHEREAS, the largest audience drew one million people in Yoido Plaza in Seoul, South  
21 Korea, in 1973, and the longest consecutive gathering was held at Madison Square Garden  
22 in New York City in 1957, lasting 16 weeks; and

23 WHEREAS, Reverend Graham authored 33 books, including his autobiography entitled *Just*  
24 *As I Am* for the hymn that was played during the many altar calls at the end of his services;  
25 and

26 WHEREAS, while Reverend Graham was "God's Ambassador" with an unchanging message  
27 of the Gospel and was credited with breaking down many barriers of segregation, he lived  
28 a simple life of personal integrity and simple pleasures while maintaining world-wide  
29 influence for salvation and peace; and

30 WHEREAS, Reverend Graham was called home to be with the Lord in his 100th year of life  
31 on February 21, 2018, in Montreat, North Carolina; and

32 WHEREAS, he was a humble man, yet he was the fourth private citizen to lie in honor in the  
33 rotunda of the United States Capitol, in a simple casket resting on the same catafalque made  
34 for President Abraham Lincoln; and

35 WHEREAS, his final resting place on earth is at the Billy Graham Library in Charlotte,  
36 North Carolina; and

37 WHEREAS, Reverend Graham responded, as no man ever has, to Jesus' command found in  
38 Mark 16:15: "Go into all the world and preach the Gospel to the whole creation"; and

39 WHEREAS, whether the task was preparing a sermon, counseling the troubled, baptizing a  
40 new believer, or acting as a theologian, educator, administrator, or humanitarian, Reverend  
41 Graham served as a shining example of God's righteous path, and it is abundantly fitting and  
42 proper that his enduring legacy be appropriately recognized.

43 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that  
44 the members of this body join in honoring the life and memory of Reverend Billy Graham  
45 and express their deepest and most sincere regret at his passing.

46 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized  
47 and directed to make an appropriate copy of this resolution available for distribution to the  
48 family of Reverend Billy Graham, the public, and the press.